

Message Text

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ACTION NEA-09

INFO OCT-01 ISO-00 AEC-05 AID-05 CEA-01 CIAE-00 CIEP-01

COME-00 DODE-00 EB-07 FEAE-00 FPC-01 H-01 INR-07

INT-05 L-02 NSAE-00 NSC-05 OMB-01 PM-03 RSC-01 SAM-01

OES-03 SP-02 SS-15 STR-01 TRSE-00 FRB-03 AGR-05 EUR-12

IO-10 PA-01 PRS-01 USIA-06 SCCT-01 SAJ-01 ACDA-05

EA-06 SAB-01 /129 W

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R 051146Z FEB 75

FM AMEMBASSY ALGIERS

TO SECSTATE WASHDC 1830

LIMITED OFFICIAL USE SECTION 1 OF 2 ALGIERS 0338

E.O. 11652: N/A

TAGS: OVIP, PFOR, AG

SUBJ: ALGERIAN PRESIDENT HOUARI BOUMEDIENE'S

INTERVIEW WITH THE TIME MAGAZINE "NEWSTOUR"

IN ALGIERS JANUARY 30, 1975

REF: ALGIERS 0290

1. FOLLOWING IS TRANSCRIPT OF EMBOFF'S NOTES OF BOUMEDIENE MEETING WITH TIME GROUP WHICH VISITED ALGERIA JANUARY 29 AND 30. THE MEETING, WHICH TOOK PLACE IN THE "PALAIS DU PEUPLE" LASTED ABOUT 1 1/2 HOURS AND WAS ATTENDED BY FOREIGN MINISTER BOUTEFLIKA AND INDUSTRY AND ENERGY MINISTER ABDESSELAM AS WELL.

2. THE TIME MAGAZINE VERSION, WHICH THE EMBASSY OBTAINED, IS, IN OUR VIEW, LESS ACCURATE IN SOME RESPECT THAN OURS, ALTHOUGH ITS VERSIONS OF THE DISCUSSION REGARDING PALESTINE IS MORE COMPLETE. IT IS EXPECTED THAT EXCERPTS FROM THE LIMITED OFFICIAL USE

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TIME VERSION OF THE INTERVIEW WILL APPEAR IN TIME THE WEEK

OF FEBRUARY 2.

3. AT END OF MEETING, HENRY GRUNWALD, MANAGING EDITOR OF TIME PRESENTED THE PRESIDENT WITH A HANDSOME CRYSTAL DOVE WHICH THE PRESIDENT, ACKNOWLEDGING THE GIFT AS A SYMBOL OF PEACE, SEEMED TO APPRECIATE.

4. PRESIDENT BOUMEDIENE'S INTERVIEW WITH THE TIME "NEWTOUR" JANUARY 30, 1975.

TIME: QUESTION OF WHAT RECENT OPEC MEETING ACCOMPLISHED.

BOUMEDIENE: CONFERENCE CALLED WITH TWO OBJECTIVES IN MIND (1) STUDY THE PROBLEMS AND COMMON INTERESTS OF THE OIL PRODUCING COUNTRIES AND (2) STUDY THE PROBLEMS OF THE CONSUMING COUNTRIES. MEETING WAS NOT IN SPIRIT OF CONFRONTATION BUT RATHER AS PREPARATORY TO ESTABLISHMENT OF DIALOGUE BETWEEN OIL PRODUCING AND OIL CONSUMING NATIONS. WHAT ARE THE PROBLEMS OF CONSUMER NATIONS? I REALIZE THEIR ECONOMIES ARE SUFFERING. ON THE PRICE PROBLEM IT CANNOT BE EXAMINED AS DISTINCT OR SEPARATE ISSUE. THE PRICE PROBLEM MUST BE TIED TO OTHER PROBLEMS. ENERGY PROBLEMS ARE FUNDAMENTALLY CONSUMER NATION PROBLEMS (AS OPPOSED TO PRODUCER NATION PROBLEMS). THE PRICE OF OIL HAS RISEN BUT SO HAVE THE PRICES OF THE EQUIPMENT WE IMPORT, THUS THE PRICE OF ENERGY INVOLVES ALL THE ECONOMIC PROBLEMS OF CONSUMER COUNTRIES.

LET US MEET TO DISCUSS PRICES NOT ONLY OF OIL BUT OF COMMODITIES, EQUIPMENT AND TECHNOLOGY.

MURRAY GART: MANY AMERICANS ARE SURPRISED BY THE STRONG ARAB REACTION TO "LEADING U.S. OFFICIALS" STATEMENTS ON WHAT COULD HAPPEN IF U.S. OR ALLIES FELT "STRANGLER." WHY WAS THIS STATEMENT TAKEN AS A THREAT?

BOUMEDIENE: I WILL ANSWER BY ASKING YOU A QUESTION; WHY DID THE U. S. MAKE SUCH A STATEMENT?

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GART: MOST FEEL IT WAS A REALISTIC STATEMENT.

BOUMEDIENE: I WILL GIVE MY VIEW IN ALL FRANKNESS AND REPEAT HERE WHAT I TOLD YOUR AMBASSADOR IN OUR RECENT MEETING. I DO NOT SEE THE NECESSITY OF MAKING SUCH A STATEMENT. THREATS FROM THE "PEACEMAKER" ARE DANGEROUS. WHY? WHO OR WHAT NATION COULD "STRANGLE" THE UNITED STATES AND WHY WOULD THEY WANT TO DO SUCH A THING?

GART: (REPEATS SECRETARY STATEMENT ABOUT STRANGULATION) WHAT WOULD YOU DO IF YOU WERE BEING STRANGLED?

BOUMEDIENE: THE UNITED STATES WAS SPEAKING ON BEHALF OF THE WESTERN WORLD, I WOULD LIKE TO SPEAK ON BEHALF OF ALGERIA AND THE THIRD WORLD. I CONCLUDE THAT THE U.S. HAS A RIGHT TO POSE SUCH A PROBLEM IN REFERENCE TO ALL HUMANITY BUT NOT AS THE REPRESENTATIVE OF A GROUP OF STATES. HUNGER IS STRANGULATION. WHY ARE THE U.S. AND CANADA NOT ACTING ON THIS? THE U.S. IS ASKING FOR OIL, THE THIRD WORLD IS ASKING FOR FOOD.

DR. KISSINGER'S STATEMENT WAS NOT IN PLACE. OIL IS AVAILABLE, EVEN IN EXCESS. PRESIDENT FORD AND DR. KISSINGER KNOW THIS. THE U.S. IS NOT BEING STRANGLED.

GART: INSTITUTION OF BOYCOTT WOULD AFFECT EUROPE NOT U.S.

BOUMEDIENE: PERHAPS WE DO NOT UNDERSTAND ALL OR KNOW ALL THE ELEMENTS OF A SITUATION WHICH WOULD CAUSE THE ARABS TO IMPOSE AN OIL EMBARGO. WHEN WAR OCCURS EVERYTHING IS POSSIBLE. EVERYTHING BECOMES A LEGAL RIGHT. IT IS IMPORTANT TO AVOID SUCH A WAR AS IT WOULD BE DISASTROUS FOR ALL COUNTRIES WITH INTERESTS IN THE AREA. HOW MANY YEARS DID THE UNITED STATES BOYCOTT CUBA? THE U. S. USED THIS WEAPON AGAINST A VERY SMALL COUNTRY.

GART: HISTORY DOES NOT SERVE THESE DISCUSSIONS.

BOUMEDIENE: I SAID IF WAR CAME EVERYTHING WOULD BE LIMITED OFFICIAL USE

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POSSIBLE. I DID NOT SAY A BOYCOTT WOULD BE INEVITABLE. WE MUST AVOID A NEW WAR. IT WOULD BE DETRIMENTAL TO ALL. ALGERIA IS AN EXPORTER OF OIL AND NATURAL GAS TO THE U. S; THE FPC HAS FROZEN THESE PROSPECTS.

GART: WHAT DO YOU FEEL IS THE INTENT OF U. S. POLICY? IS U. S. POLICY FOR PEACE OR OTHER PURPOSES?

BOUMEDIENE: THE EFFORTS OF THE U. S. HAVE THUS FAR NOT BEEN SUFFICIENT TO RESTORE PERMANENT PEACE IN THE AREA. IT IS POSSIBLE FOR THE U. S. TO MAKE EFFECTIVE CONTRIBUTIONS TO PEACE. THIS IS WHAT I WISH.

GART: WHAT EXACTLY DO YOU WISH US TO DO?

BOUMEDIENE: TAKE A MORE POSITIVE ROLE. DR. KISSINGER TAKES THE STEP BY STEP APPROACH. THAT IS HIS BUSINESS. WE WANT THE U.S. TO RECOGNIZE THE FACTS OF LIFE. PALESTINE IS A PART OF THE ARAB WORLD AND A SOLUTION OF THIS PROBLEM IS A PART OF THE RESTORATION OF PEACE.

HEISKELL: SADAT TALKED TO US ABOUT THE NEXT 90 DAYS AS CRITICAL. DO YOU THINK AN OIL EMBARGO WOULD START AFTER THIS PERIOD?

BOUMEDIENE: LETS CLEAR UP THIS EMBARGO PROBLEM. IT SHOULD NOT BE TIED TO ANY 90 DAY PERIOD. THE EMBARGO SHOULD NOT BE AUTOMATIC. 1975 IS AN IMPORTANT YEAR FOR US. WITH AN ELECTION YEAR IN THE U. S. IN 1976, ACTIVITY WILL BE FROZEN. THIS, 75 IS IMPORTANT. THE 1975 - 76 PERIOD COULD BE DANGEROUS.

SOL LINOWITZ: IS OPEC FULLY RESPONDING TO THE NEEDS OF THIRD WORLD?

BOUMEDIENE: WE TAKE THIS INTO CONSIDERATION IN OUR POLICY. WE HAVE RAISED THIS QUESTION AT THE UN. OPEC COUNTRIES HAVE DUTIES TOWARD THE POOR NATIONS. WE ARE ACTING TO ACHIEVE THIS OBJECTIVE. WE CANNOT ASK THE INDUSTRIALIZED COUNTRIES TO ACT WITHOUT ACTING OURSELVES.

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TO SECSTATE WASHDC 1831

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MALOTT (FMC): WE CAN UNDERSTAND PHILOSOPHICAL DIFFERENCES
BETWEEN U.S. AND ALGERIA BUT WE DO NOT UNDERSTAND YOUR
HARBORING TERRORISTS.

BOUMEDIENE: WHICH TERRORISTS?

MALOTT (FMC):HIJACKERS.

BOUMEDIENE: I THINK YOU MAY BE REFERRING TO TWO MATTERS.

(1) AN ISRAELI AIRCRAFT WHICH WE HAD THE COURAGE TO FREE
AS A MATTER OF PRINCIPAL AND (2) A U.S. AIRCRAFT WHERE
THERE WAS THE QUESTION OF A DOLS 1 MILLION RANSOM, WHICH
WE RETURNED IN FULL, WITH THE EXCEPTION OF 50 DOLLARS.

QUESTION: HOW DO WE ACHIEVE PEACE IN THE MIDDLE EAST?

BOUMEDIENE: EGYPT, SYRIA AND THE PALESTINIANS MUST
AGREE ON THE SOLUTION.

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QUESTION:IS IT REASONABLE TO EXPECT A TOTAL SOLUTION?
IS NOT THE STEP BY STEP APPROACH BETTER? WOULD YOU
CONSIDER A PULLBACK IN THE SINAI AS A GOOD STEP?

BOUMEDIENE: THERE IS SOME CONFUSION HERE. ALGERIA
REMAINS DOUBTFUL THAT THE U. S. IS FAIR IN THE ARAB
CAUSE. THE U. S. BIAS FAVORS ISRAEL. THE ARABS ARE
NOT ENEMIES OF THE U. S. OR THE AMERICAN PEOPLE. THE
QUESTION IS DOES ISRAEL HAVE ENOUGH INFLUENCE IN THE
U. S. TO PREVENT THE U. S. FROM ASKING FOR A WITHDRAWAL?
THIS IS AN INTERNAL U. S. PROBLEM NOT AN ARAB PROBLEM.
A NEW WITHDRAWAL WOULD NOT SOLVE THE PROBLEM. SADAT
MUST HAVE TOLD YOU THE SAME THING.

QUESTION: DO YOU THINK ISRAEL WOULD ACCEPT SECURE BOUNDARIES?

BOUMEDIENE: WHAT BOUNDARIES?

TIME: AS BEFORE THE 67 WAR.

BOUMEDIENE: LETS ASK ARAFAT*

TIME: IF HE SAYS NO?

BOUMEDIENE: YOU SHOULD TRY ANYWAY. MR. KISSINGER IS COMING IN FEBRUARY TO THE MIDDLE EAST. THE UNITES STATES SHOULD GET IN TOUCH WITH THE FOURTH PARTY INVOLVED (THE PLO). A RESOLUTION OF THE PROBLEM MUST COME ON THE BASIS. MY POSITION IS THAT OF THE PLO.

TIME: ALGERIA IS FAR FROM THE CONFLICT AREA YET HOLDS TO A HARDER LINE THAN SOME OF THE OTHERS. IS THIS AN UNFAIR VIEW?

BOUMEDIENE: OUR POSITION IS THE BEST ONE. WE ARE OBJECTIVE, WE HAVE NO CONFLICT OF INTEREST. WE ARE NOT RIGID AND WE DON NOT HAVE EXTREME POSITIONS. OUR POSITION IS NOT NEW. IT IS OUR PERMANENT STAND. WE ARE NOT AGAINST MODERATION. WE HAVE ENCOURAGED DR. KISSINGER'S INITIATIVES FROM THE BEGINNING EVEN THOUGH WE COULD HAVE CAUSED TROUBLE IF WE HAD WISHED. WE LIMITED OFFICIAL USE

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ARE REMOTE FROM THE FIGHTING, BUT WE HAVE HAD THE EXPERIENCE OF WAR. ONE TENTH OF OUR POPULATION WAS LOST IN OUR WAR OF LIBERATION. IT IS FOR THIS REASON THAT WE ARE MORE INCLINED TOWARD PEACE.

WHAT ARE THE PUBLIC OR IMPLICIT AGREEMENTS BETWEEN THE U.S. AND THE SOVIET UNION? WHAT WERE THE RESULTS OF BREZNEV'S VISIT TO THE U.S. AND FORD'S VISIT TO VLADIVOSTAK? I DO NOT KNOW. I CANNOT OBJECTIVELY ANSWER, BUT THE SOVIET UNION IS PRESENT IN THE REGION AND IT CANNOT BE IGNORED IN THE SEARCH FOR A SOLUTION. WE ARE NEUTRAL ON THIS QUESTION.

SOL LINOWITZ: SADAT SAID HE RECOGNIZED THE U.S. SPECIAL RELATIONSHIP TO ISRAEL. HE SAID KEEP THIS RELATIONSHIP AND AT THE SAME TIME BE FRIENDLY WITH EGYPT. WHAT DO YOU THINK?

BOUMEDIENE: IT IS A LOGICAL STATEMENT. IT WOULD BE POINTLESS FOR THE U.S. TO BE HOSTILE TO ISRAEL. BUT HOW CAN YOUR INTERESTS WITH ISRAEL BE RECONCILED? IF YOU CAN DO THIS A SOLUTION WILL BE FOUND. WE ASK YOU TO TREAT THE ARABS AS YOUR FRIENDS. LEAVE YOUR BIG STICK

POLICY ON THE SIDE, THEN WE CAN UNDERSTAND EACH OTHER.

TIME: EXPLAIN THE CONTRADICTION OF SAUDI ARABIA AND ALGERIA, TWO TOTALLY DIFFERENT SYSTEMS, WORKING TOGETHER.

BOUMEDIENE: THIS IS A SECONDARY CONTRADICTION. WE HAVE GOOD RELATIONS WITH SAUDI ARABIA, ALTHOUGH, THE KING IS COMMITTED TO ONE GENERATION AND I TO ANOTHER. THE REAL STRUGGLE IS AGAINST UNDERDEVELOPMENT. PROBLEMS OF BELIEFS ARE SECONDARY. U.S. RELATIONS WITH SAUDI ARABIA ARE CONCERNED WITH ARMS AND OIL COMPANIES SUCH AS ARAMCO. US - ALGERIAN RELATIONS INVOLVE OTHER MATTERS AND MAY BROADEN WITH THE SPEED OF LIGHTENING, EVEN THOUGH WE MAY DISAGREE ON TOPICS SUCH AS VIETNAM AND CAMBODIA. THE U.S. SHOULD NOT ONLY HAVE FRIENDS LIKE THIEU AND LON NOL TO WHOM YOU HAVE TO SEND B 52'S, BUT NEW FRIENDS WHO WILL BENEFIT MUTUALLY FROM THE RELATIONSHIP. THIS IS MY POINT OF VIEW.
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TIME: WHAT IS THE FEELING WITHIN OPEC ABOUT THE INDEXING OF OIL TO COMMODITIES?

BOUMEDIENE: IT IS POSSIBLE TO USE A COMMODITY INDEX TO DETERMINE THE PRICE OF OIL. PAST (OIL) PRICES WERE UNFAIR COMPARED TO SUGAR AND WHEAT. WE ARE AGAINST PRICE INCREASES WHICH CAUSE INFLATION. WE ARE TRYING TO INDUSTRIALIZE AND INFLATION IN THE U.S. AND EUROPE AFFECTS US. WE WILL BE PRESENTING THESE IDEAS TO THE TWO PARTY CONFERENCE, IF IT COMES ABOUT.

TIME: YOU MENTIONED A POSSIBLE SUDDEN CHANGE IN U. S. ALGERIAN RELATIONS. WHAT DO YOU MEAN?

BOUMEDIENE: AS FOR ALGERIA -- U.S. RELATIONS, THE FIRST IMPORTANT POINT IS THAT WE HAVE NOT OUTSTANDING PROBLEMS. SECONDLY, WHAT IS ALGERIA IN 1975? WE ARE WORKING HARD TO DEVELOP AND WE NEED EVERYTHING. WE NEED TO IMPORT EQUIPMENT, TECHNOLOGY, EXPERTS, STUDIES IN ALL FIELDS. WE NEED LOANS, THERE ARE BROAD AREAS OPEN TO OUR COOPERATION. THE U.S. HAS A TREMENDOUS POTENTIAL FOR CONTRIBUTION TO ALGERIA. IN THE PAST, ALGERIA'S BUSINESS PARTNERS HAVE BENEFITED. AS FOR THE TRADE BILL, THE OPEC CLAUSE, WE DO NOT UNDERSTAND IT. WE DO NOT HAVE BANK ACCOUNTS.

TIME : IF ALGERIA NEEDS LOANS WHY DON'T YOU GET THEM FROM SAUDI ARABIA? THE WEST WOULD THEN SUPPLY THE TECHNOLOGY AND THE EQUIPMENT.

BOUMEDIENE: SAUDI ARABIA IS MORE INTERESTED IN THE
U.S. THAN IN ALGERIA FOR ITS CAPITAL. ALL WE WISH
FOR ARE FRIENDLY RELATIONS AND TRUE COOPERATION
BETWEEN ALGERIA AND THE U.S. I AM SORRY IF I PERHAPS
SPOKE TOO FRANKLY TONIGHT. I BELIEVE RELATIONS
SHOULD BE BASED ON FRANKNESS AND TRUTH AND THE LACK OF
ANY COMPLEXES, WHETHER IT BE AN INFERIORITY COMPLEX,
WHICH WE MIGHT HAVE, OR A SUPERIORITY COMPLEX.PARKER

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Message Attributes

Automatic Decaptioning: X
Capture Date: 01 JAN 1994
Channel Indicators: n/a
Current Classification: UNCLASSIFIED
Concepts: FOREIGN RELATIONS, PETROLEUM, PRESS CONFERENCES
Control Number: n/a
Copy: SINGLE
Draft Date: 05 FEB 1975
Decaption Date: 01 JAN 1960
Decaption Note:
Disposition Action: RELEASED
Disposition Approved on Date:
Disposition Authority: johnsorg
Disposition Case Number: n/a
Disposition Comment: 25 YEAR REVIEW
Disposition Date: 28 MAY 2004
Disposition Event:
Disposition History: n/a
Disposition Reason:
Disposition Remarks:
Document Number: 1975ALGIER00338
Document Source: CORE
Document Unique ID: 00
Drafter: n/a
Enclosure: n/a
Executive Order: N/A
Errors: N/A
Film Number: D750042-0233
From: ALGIERS
Handling Restrictions: n/a
Image Path:
ISecure: 1
Legacy Key: link1975/newtext/t19750268/aaaacjmu.tel
Line Count: 393
Locator: TEXT ON-LINE, ON MICROFILM
Office: ACTION NEA
Original Classification: LIMITED OFFICIAL USE
Original Handling Restrictions: n/a
Original Previous Classification: n/a
Original Previous Handling Restrictions: n/a
Page Count: 8
Previous Channel Indicators: n/a
Previous Classification: LIMITED OFFICIAL USE
Previous Handling Restrictions: n/a
Reference: 75 ALGIERS 0290
Review Action: RELEASED, APPROVED
Review Authority: johnsorg
Review Comment: n/a
Review Content Flags:
Review Date: 29 JUL 2003
Review Event:
Review Exemptions: n/a
Review History: RELEASED <29 JUL 2003 by ShawDG>; APPROVED <20 NOV 2003 by johnsorg>
Review Markings:

Margaret P. Grafeld
Declassified/Released
US Department of State
EO Systematic Review
05 JUL 2006

Review Media Identifier:
Review Referrals: n/a
Review Release Date: n/a
Review Release Event: n/a
Review Transfer Date:
Review Withdrawn Fields: n/a
Secure: OPEN
Status: NATIVE
Subject: ALGERIAN PRESIDENT HOUARI BOUMEDIENE'S INTERVIEW WITH THE TIME MAGAZINE "NEWSTOUR"
TAGS: OVIP, PFOR, AG, (BOUMEDIENE, HOUARI)
To: STATE
Type: TE
Markings: Margaret P. Grafeld Declassified/Released US Department of State EO Systematic Review 05 JUL 2006